

Friday, September 2, 2011

# Weekly Views

Commissioner Lemmon is pleased to announce that Camp Summit Boot Camp has been chosen as the winner of the 2011 Performance Based Standards (PbS) Barbara Allen-Hagen Award for demonstrating excellence in implementation and compliance with the PbS of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) for facility programs and operations. Camp Summit will receive the award at the annual CJCA meeting in Washington D.C. on October 12. It is an honor and an exceptional accomplishment for Camp Summit to receive this award in such a short period of time as a PbS site.

"Prison Tails," Westville's dog program, has developed an obedience class for dogs called the "Express Train" program. Anyone interested can work through the volunteer group that sponsors "Prison Tails, and arrange to have their unruly canine attend the 4 or 8 week program, the charge for the program is \$300 and \$500 respectively. The waiting list for the obedience class is now booked through November. Money from the Express Train, is then put back into "Prison Tails."

The Indiana Board of Health conducted an annual food service audit with Aramark at the Indiana Women's Prison. The facility is proud to announce a score of 100%. Good Job Aramark!

The Correctional Industrial Facility's FIDO program has been recognized by the Madison County Humane Shelter. The shelter acknowledged 35 trained offender handlers who work with the animals as they prepare them for adoption.

Staff from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility participated in the facility's first blood drive. The Indiana Blood Center collected a total of 11 units of blood, with one attempt donor deferred.

Miami Correctional Facility Superintendent Mark Sevier has announced the promotion of two staffers into top custody positions. Douglas Nelson was promoted to Captain. Adam Oswalt was promoted to Lieutenant. According to Superintendent Sevier, both staff have shown professionalism and dedication to their jobs and are examples of the type of employees we should all aspire to be.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility hosted two blood drives for the 2011 IDOC Blood Drive Challenge. Coordinated by Tonya Morris, staff gave the "Gift of Life" by donating a total of 53 units of blood to the Indiana Blood Center.

Thirty-four Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility students participated in "Midnight Madness" as a reward for their positive behavior. Students received Papa John's pizza, played games, watched a movie, and the facility's Drama Club presented a performance of a play they authored.

So far this year, Edinburgh Correctional Facility has donated approximately 1,500 pounds of fresh vegetables to the Hope Community Food Bank and the Town of Edinburgh Food Bank. The vegetables donated include cabbage, okra, tomatoes, peppers, green beans, and cantaloupe.

A "Straight from the Horse's Mouth" program was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The program provides a venue for problematic youth to engage in discussion with offenders who stress the importance of changing criminal behaviors, forming positive peer relationships, and life behind bars as a result of continued criminal behavior. The Clay County Probation Department mandates attendance for youth on probation, male and female from ages eight to 18. The program is coordinated by Putnamville Counselors Nora Spence and Dean Treash and Indiana State Police Trooper Mike Wood.

Branchville Correctional Facility hosted its annual Old Fashioned Tent Revival. There were 13 sessions with an average of 160 offenders attending each session. Over 50 volunteers and 25 staff helped make the event possible. Volunteers from the local communities and some from as far away as Indianapolis and Louisville, volunteered their time to preach and sing messages of change and hope.

Officer Jerry Lynch from the Henryville Correctional Facility retired after 21 years in the Department. Officer Lynch was a well respected and very well liked staff person. He worked at several facilities, including Edinburgh, where he began his career. While at Henryville, Officer Lynch supervised an offender work crew at the Jefferson County Highway Department. His correctional intuition, skill and ability in the correctional environment will be missed greatly.

The Miami Correctional Facility and PEN Products opened the first career focused housing unit. The unit is designed to assist offenders in long term career development. The core curriculum is based on the National Institute of Corrections' Career Resource Center training program.

Wabash Valley officially pinned a new Lieutenant. Major Dusty Russell and Captain Mike Voigtschild put the bars on Lieutenant Travis Davis! Davis is a 13 year veteran of the facility and serves as Field Commander for the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility E-Squad. Congratulations Lieutenant Davis!

Rockville Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 82 GED and Career Technology graduates including Business Technology, Culinary Arts, and Building Maintenance. Friends and family enjoyed a reception following the ceremony with cake and punch prepared by Culinary Arts students. Former offender, Rosaline Butler, was the guest speaker. Dr. John Nally, Director of Education, addressed the importance of education to successful employment and re-entry.

The New Castle Correctional Facility honored World AIDS Day with a first ever AIDS Walk and production of an AIDS Memory Quilt. Volunteers from The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis and AmeriCorps participated with both staff and offenders in the walk.